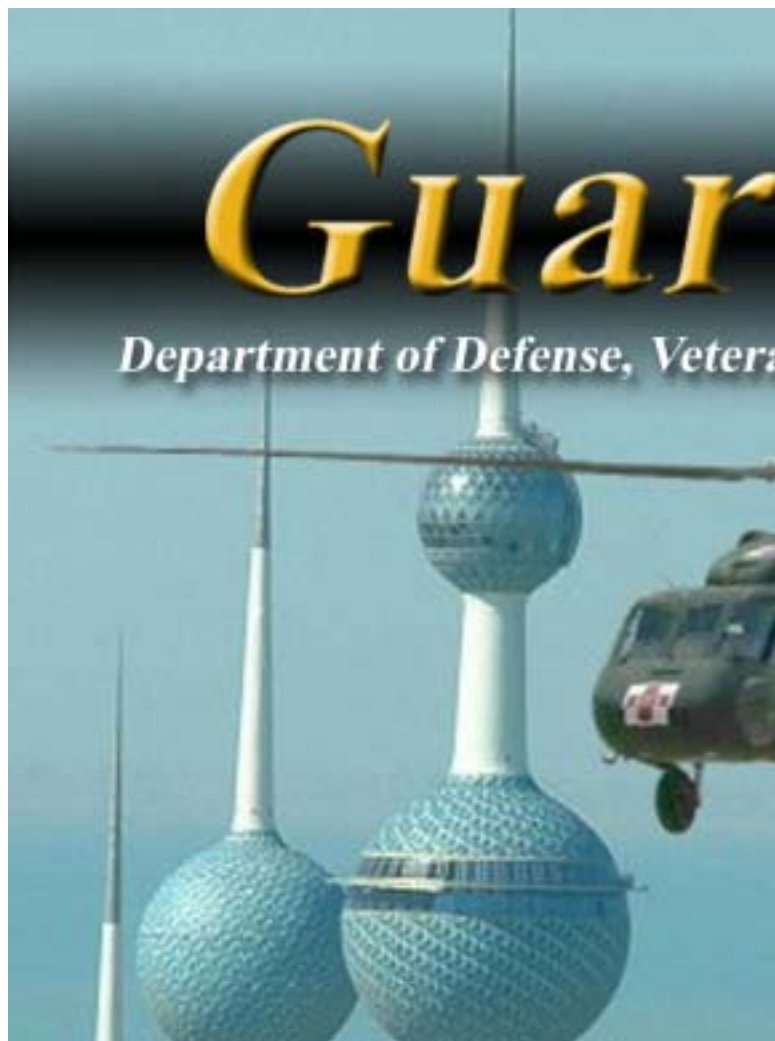
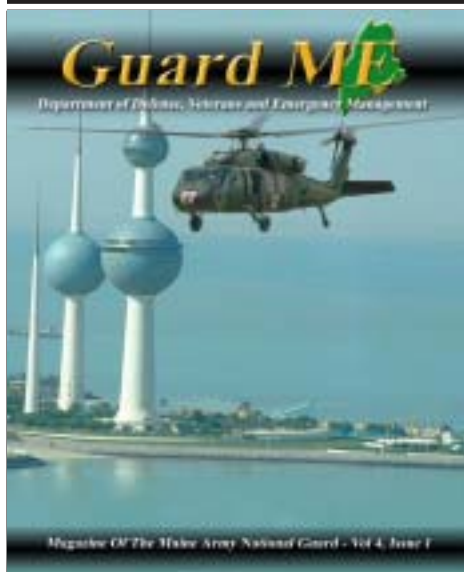


# Guard

*Department of Defense, Veterans*





### On the Cover...

112th Air Ambulance flying over Kuwait City. Photo submitted by the 112th Medical Company.



Magazine of the  
Maine Army National Guard

Volume 4, Issue 1

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## Message from the Editor

**By: SFC Carl Weiss, PA**

*It is with both excitement and relief that we, the staff at GuardME, bring you Volume 4, Issue 1 of the magazine. Many of you will take note of the fact that stories written about events that took place in June and July of 2003 are just now being published. It is our intent to bring to you timely and informative articles about the Maine Army National Guard. Circumstances beyond our control have delayed the publication of this issue. You can be assured that the future holds the promise of timely publication of GuardME providing current and relevant information for our Guard family. We appreciate your comments, suggestions and constructive criticism. Thank you for your patience.*

## Defender of Freedom

**By: SSG Joseph Desmond, PA**

Recognition of National Guard soldiers and their sacrifices to the cause of freedom around the world is the thrust behind a new Army National Guard "Freedom Salute Campaign". The program recognizes soldiers' and their families who were activated for more than thirty days in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, or Iraqi Freedom. This includes state active duty and Title 10 soldiers.

One of the largest recognition programs in the history of the Army National Guard, the Freedom Salute Campaign began in December 2003 and will take place in two phases during winter and spring of 2004. It will recognize the

17,000 soldiers, family, friends, employers, and other people and organizations critical to the Army National Guards' success.

Eligible soldiers will receive a "Defender of Freedom" certificate, signed by Lieutenant General Roger C. Shultz, Director of the Army National Guard and Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard A. Frank Lever, III; an encased American Flag, a numbered coin and a lapel insignia. Additionally the soldiers' spouse and children will receive items recognizing their contributions as well.



*Members from the 152nd Maintenance Company parade past invited guests and dignitaries, Maine Senator Susan Collins (R) and The Adjutant General John (Bill) Libby during the opening ceremonies of the Defender of Freedom in Bangor. (Photo by: SSG Joseph Desmond, PA)*

# Guard ME

The Magazine of the Maine Army National Guard — 2004

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## Deployment Update

**By: SFC Carl Weiss, PA**

*Editor's Note: Since this story was written, E/120th has safely returned to Maine. We welcome them home and congratulate them on a job well done! Additionally, the tense of this story and others within this issue of the GuardME may not jell with the current timeframe.*

Nearly a year ago, several Army National Guard units in Maine received their mobilization orders to deploy to the Middle East or Afghanistan as the United States prepared to invade Iraq. Initially, soldiers were told to expect a 6 month rotation. The war, while relatively short in duration, has become the preamble to what is shaping up to be a lengthy stay in country for the United States. US troops, along with coalition forces from other countries, are attempting to instill justice and democracy, clean up the ravages of war and help the new Iraq to be governed by the Iraqi people.

In the days and weeks that followed the attacks on America on 9/11, President Bush told the American people to expect a long fight in the war on terror. Backing up his pledge to protect America he has ordered troops, both active and reserve, to numerous areas around the world. The war, subsequent occupation and continued hostilities has created a manpower strain on soldiers worldwide. Initial estimates of six month deployments have been stretched into 12 month tours with more units being told to prepare to be called up.

This increased op-tempo in American military activity currently finds no less than four Maine Army National Guard units deployed. Additionally, Maine has soldiers from two other units serving overseas with other National Guard units. Recently Task Force Phoenix was formed and will be sending even more Maine Guardsmen around the world to Afghani-

**See 'Deployment' on Page 5**



*Families and friends say goodbye to their 28 soldiers as they prepare to depart enroute to join an Engineer Battalion in Fort Stewart, GA. (Photo by MSG Angela Blevins, PA)*



# Operation Iraqi Freedom- Maine Ambulances

**NGB Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait**

**By: MSG Bob Haskell, PA NGB**

ALI AL SALEM AIR BASE, KUWAIT - Ron Ireland needed about as much time as it takes a Black Hawk helicopter's main rotor to complete two, maybe three, rotations at full speed to ponder this question.

How is the second Gulf War different from the first?

Ireland is a Chief Warrant Officer 4 and a pilot for the Maine Army National Guard's 112th Medical Company out of Bangor, and he has rather unexpectedly returned to the Persian Gulf to fly air ambulances during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The first time, a dozen years ago, he was flying for the active Army's 36th Medical Detachment out of Fort Polk, La. He returned to his native Maine after leaving the Army and joined the Army Guard outfit in 1993 so he could keep on serving and flying.

"The first time I came here, we waited around for a long time for the war to start. It ended pretty quickly, and we left a couple of months after it was over," recalled Ireland of that 100-hour ground war against the Iraqi army in February 1991.

"The last time we didn't come to stay. This time we have. The liberation is the big difference."

So it is. The 112th's soldiers may be there for a full year, until next March, because the Army has directed that National Guard and Reserve units' tours of duty be extended to 12 months "on the ground."

This time the well-traveled 112th is right in the thick of things. It is said to be the only Army Guard air ambulance company operating in Iraq and Kuwait.

Those 130 citizen-soldiers – pilots, crew chiefs, medics and mechanics – are an example of how much more heavily engaged National Guard units are the second time around.

The company supported Operation Desert Storm by going to Germany to replace an active Army medical unit that was sent to the Gulf.

Now it is the 112th's helicopter crews, who are flying in the combat zone. Since early May they have seen tracer rounds cut through the night while flying over

Iraq. They have transported injured and burned Iraqi prisoners of war as well as wounded and injured American and coalition soldiers. They have even landed on, and lifted off from, a Navy hospital ship.

The Maine company, commanded by Maj. Mark Sullivan, is based here north of Kuwait City, but its area of responsibility includes all of Kuwait and as far north into Iraq as Baghdad.

That, Sullivan said, is equivalent to the stretch between Bangor, Maine and New York City.

Things are not, however, quite so civilized in the Persian Gulf.

Flying over vast stretches of desert can be challenging because the blowing sand obscures the horizon, especially at night when the crews must rely on night vision goggles.

"There is no terrain definition at night. You can fly right into the ground if you're not paying attention," Ireland said.

And the tracers at night remind everyone that they are in a hostile country.

"I don't know that anyone's actually been shot at, but we have seen tracers in the vicinity," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Todd Lidback. "At least we haven't had any holes in the helicopters. That's a good thing."

As of Sept. 5, the flight crews had transported 827 patients and logged about 2,200 hours since they began flying on May 2, the day after hostilities in Iraq were officially declared over.

"We're a lot busier than I thought we'd be," said Sullivan, who has detached parts of his company to three different locations in Iraq. "We flew 660 hours during 15 days in May. And we've made about 25 landings on the Navy hospital ship that was located at least 60 miles out in the Persian Gulf."

After initially supporting the Marines, the medical company now supports troops from other countries that are part of the coalition force that is helping the United States try to bring stability to Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein.

The 32-member maintenance section keeps busy working on as many as four helicopters at a time because the sand

**See 'Ambulances' on page 10**



*Maine Army National Guard Sgt. Steve Striga tunes an engine on one of the air ambulance helicopters that the 112th Medical Company is flying in Iraq and Kuwait during Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau)*

# Deployment

*Continued from page 3*

stan, assisting with the continued training of the Afghan National Army.

The 112<sup>th</sup> Medical Company is currently located in three separate camps in Kuwait and Iraq. Veterans of three recent deployments to Germany (in support of Desert Storm), Bosnia and now the Middle East, the soldiers of the 112<sup>th</sup> have been evacuating both coalition and Iraqi casualties from the battlefield since this spring and anticipate continuing missions throughout the upcoming winter.

Truckers of the 1136<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company are stationed in Kuwait and have been assisting units in theater with their redeployment process. Ironically, one of the units they assisted and moved to a new area of operation turned out to be their neighbor from down the street in Bangor, the 112<sup>th</sup>.

The Air Traffic Services Company, E/120<sup>th</sup> is stationed in Afghanistan at two separate locations. They have been putting their Air Space Control and ATS skills to use controlling incoming and outgoing flights in the Khandahar area.

The 133<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Battalion has close to a platoon of soldiers deployed to Iraq. These soldiers have gone to augment the 878<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion from the Georgia Army National Guard. Their mission has been to work and improve the damage done to the Main Supply Routes in Iraq. MSR's need to be kept clean of debris from attacks and need continuous upgrading and improvements.

Pilots of OSACOM have been busy flying their C-12 King Air Beechcraft fixed wing aircraft in Afghanistan. Hauling passengers and supplies to the units and soldiers to areas that otherwise wouldn't be accessible has been their specialty.

The ink was barely dry on the paper authorizing the formation of Maine's newest National Guard unit, a Military Police Platoon in Bangor, when some of its personnel found themselves in Cuba. Working at the Guantanamo Detention Facility, these soldiers have found themselves in the thick of the war effort guarding prisoners.

After years of oppressive rule by the Taliban in Afghanistan the Afghani people found themselves free from the old hard line rulers but without an Army to

protect them. Task Force Phoenix is working to help fix that problem. Soldiers will be in Afghanistan shortly to continue the training of the Afghan National Army. Comprised of Maine Army National Guard soldiers with an infantry background, these soldiers are currently in Colorado training and using the thin atmosphere in the Rocky Mountains to acclimate themselves to the higher attitudes they'll face on their deployment.

Not every Maine Guardsman working in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom is deployed. A contingent of soldiers is also working in Bangor helping to beef up security at the Bangor Air National Guard base. Working side by side with the Air Guard's Security Forces our soldiers are part of a growing National Guard presence both overseas and on domestic soil doing their part to make good on the President Bush's promise: "To make America safe again."

# Retirees Activity Day

**By: SSG Joseph Desmond**

On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 the Maine State Armory in Augusta was the site of Retiree Activity Day. Retiree Activity Day is an event that takes place every year and rotates among the three northern New England states—Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Retirees from all branches of the military are invited to attend along with their dependants. It is a daylong event devoted to informing and updating retirees about changes within the federal programs designed to work for them. This includes changes in medical and dental programs, when the switch from Tricare to Medicare takes place, and other benefits and entitlements that can directly impact retirees and their dependants.

Following a presentation by the Maine State Select Honor Guard, opening remarks were delivered by Brigadier General (RET) Al White and The Adjutant General, Major General Joseph Tinkham. "We expect about a thousand retirees to attend this years event", said BG White.

The coordinator for this year's event, White continued, "Benefits change, and every federal budget proposal can potentially impact a retirees quality of life. What we try to do is bring them up to speed on what's happening, what can affect them."

Although the intent of the day is business, there is a lot more going on than just updating personal paper work and getting new I.D. cards. Renewing acquaintances and catching up with old friends is a big part of it. "The next retiree event is going to be at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard" said General White.



*Retirees smile for their new photo identification card during Activity Day. (Photos by SSG Joseph Desmond, PA)*

# Association of the United States Army (AUSA)

By: SFC Carl Weiss, PA

Talk to any soldier from any era in our modern history and their complaints or concerns might range from not enough chow, to poor pay as compared to the civilian sector, long deployments that separate them from their families, health care, housing issues, poor equipment, not enough or realistic training and benefits for the soldier and their family members.

Soldiers' complaining isn't a new phenomenon; in fact, soldiers have been complaining since armies began and likely will continue to do so long into the future. Enter AUSA. The Association of the United States Army has been around since just after World War II. Formed in 1950, the mission of AUSA is to support the Army. "We are the voice of the Army. We support the active component, the National Guard, Army Reserve, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and family members. We also support the family assistance programs," said Colonel Arthur R. Wickham (RET), the Maine president of the Joshua Chamberlain chapter of AUSA.

Although AUSA is a worldwide organization, comprising over 100,000 members, the Maine chapter with just 200 members works hard within the state of Maine supporting active Army Recruiters, Army Reservists and Army National Guardsmen. "We are heavily involved in recognizing the active component Recruiter of the year and the Reserve and National Guard Recruiter of the year. Additionally, we support the MeARNG soldier and NCO of the year. We are also involved at the high school and college level with Junior ROTC and ROTC programs. Lately, we've become more involved with the Family Assistance Programs as more and more National Guard units in Maine are being deployed," said Wickham.

Pay concerns and issues that affect a soldier's quality of life are the baliwick of AUSA. They support the soldier when issues such as pay, TRICARE (health care), family concerns or benefits arise. They also work to get soldiers the best possible equipment and training to make our soldiers the best in the world. They keep up to date with the changes taking place in our Army and make sure soldiers

and their families are taken care of.

AUSA has been busy lately working issues that affect all soldiers, in particular they have helped soldiers get a 4.1% pay raise passed for all and a 6.5% pay raise for mid and senior level NCO's and mid level officers. They have lobbied to get more money for National Guard training and readiness accounts, authorization for National Guard Civil Support Teams in each state and territory to give assistance following terrorist attacks and have worked to get Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act protection for Guard members called up in state status for national homeland defense.

The association is continuing to work hard for the National Guard soldier and their family. Currently on their agenda for our administration and Congress are: supporting 100% fill of full-time manning positions, funding pay raises at levels that close the pay comparability gap between the military and private sector by 2006, compensating National Guardsmen for travel to drill sites and other service related expenses. Also, supporting legislation to give National Guardsmen comparability and parity of compensation equal to Active Component Soldiers and providing

funding to replace aging, outdated and unsafe facilities with new construction.

AUSA is open to all Army ranks and all components including the Active, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Department of the Army civilians, Retirees, concerned citizens and family members. Joining the association not only helps them continue to work for benefits for National Guard soldiers and families, but also offers the member a plethora of benefits to include hotel discounts, Geico auto insurance, Lifeplan group term insurance, mutual funds, eyewear discounts of up to 60% and educational loans for your entire family.

Guardsmen and family members interested in AUSA are encouraged to go to their website at [www.ausa.org](http://www.ausa.org) or call 800-336-4570, ext 664. They may also write for more information at: Association of the United States Army 2425 Wilson Boulevard Arlington Virginia 22201.





# AUSA's Person of the Year

## CSM Leonard

By: SFC Carl Weiss, PA

As a teenager in the early 1980's, I vividly recall Army recruiting commercials on television espousing viewers to join the Army and "*Be all that you can be.*" The Army, due to its very nature and mission, draws tremendous numbers of competitive young men and women every year who strive to live up to that old recruiting slogan by becoming the very best soldier that they can. Those enlisted soldiers quickly become non-commissioned officers as they are recognized for their abilities and are promoted to the rank of sergeant. For those who make the Army a career, many strive to achieve the highest enlisted grade possible, Sergeant Major/Command Sergeant Major (SGM/CSM)

A casual observer of the military, taking note of some one who was a Sergeant Major, might assume that having reached the pinnacle of the enlisted rank structure a soldier may have achieved all that is possible and might be looking forward to retirement in the near future. For CSM John J. Leonard nothing could be further from the truth. Leonard, a Sergeant Major or Command Sergeant Major for the past 17 years, was recently awarded the Association of the United States Army, AUSA, (Joshua Chamberlain chapter of Maine) Person of the Year Award for 2003.

Leonard, currently the senior enlisted advisor for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs in Washington D.C. and the top enlisted man for over 1.2 million service members, was recognized for his, "Overall performance of excellence." Said Colonel Arthur R. Wickham (RET) USAR. Wickham, the Maine Chapter President of AUSA continued, "CSM Leonard is an outstanding soldier; every single enlisted soldier can look up to him."

CSM Leonard's Maine ties go all the way back to Southwest Harbor where he was born and raised. After a six year tour in the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve from 1965 to 1971, including a tour in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967, he joined the Maine Army National Guard in 1972 where he rose from the rank of Sergeant as a helicopter crew chief assigned to the 112<sup>th</sup> Medical Company (Air Ambulance) to Senior Instructor at the old Maine Military Academy



COL (RET USAR) Arthur R. Wickham, CSM John Leonard and CSM Mark Collins (Photo by SFC Carl Weiss, PA)

(now the Regional Training Institute), to Senior Operations Sergeant at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Troop Command, and State CSM in 1988. His tour as State CSM was interrupted when he was ordered to active duty and served in Southwest Asia as the CSM of the 286<sup>th</sup> Supply and Service Battalion from 1990 to 1991. Upon his return from Desert Storm he resumed his duties as State CSM until 1997.

After two tours of combat and a military career that has spanned the bulk of four decades you might think retirement would be on his mind. However, Leonard was then tasked with the job of becoming the CSM and Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Army National Guard at the National Guard Bureau in Washington D.C. He served in this capacity for nearly four years before assuming his current job with the Undersecretary of Reserve Affairs. Now 57 years old, Leonard has no plans to slow down. "Next month I'll become the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lieutenant General Steven Blum."

Talking with CSM Leonard, it is obvious that he is very excited about his new assignment. "In year's past the Guard fell under one command, the Reserve under another, to include the branches of the Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve, all under different commands. The Guard and the Reserve components of all seven branches will now be consolidated under one umbrella and will allow better communication and faster response times between the different branches in the event of a natural disaster equivalent to the Ice Storm of 1998 or a homeland security issue. It will foster a much better and faster working relationship for our service members in different branches than we have right now."

Although CSM Leonard has been as-

signed to the Washington D.C. area for nearly seven years, there was no shortage of current and former Maine Army National Guard Officers and NCO's who turned out to see him receive the AUSA Person of the Year award. Among those in attendance to honor Leonard were MG (RET) Earl Adams, BG (RET) Eugene Richardson and BG (RET) Albert White.

The State's current Command Sergeant Major, CSM Mark J. Collins, introduced Leonard to the crowd and later reflected upon Leonard's career. "A Sergeant Major should be the 'Keeper of the Standard' that is in charge of training, administration, soldier entitlements and providing input on policy to the command. John has had the greatest impact on my career and was my strongest mentor among all enlisted men I've worked with over the past 30 years." He continued, "I count him as a friend and I know that he helped me tremendously in my career as I rose through the ranks."

The Maine Army National Guard's Chief of Staff, Colonel Robert G. Carmichael, was a young Captain when he first met Leonard, then a SFC with the 112<sup>th</sup> some 20 years ago. "CSM Leonard epitomizes everything that you would want in the highest level Sergeant Major. He exhibits the professional skills, ethics and all the values that we place on our soldiers. He is equally comfortable talking to the troops, senior officers and legislators alike."

Three years from now, when CSM John J. Leonard hangs up his jump boots and uniform for the last time, he will have spent nearly half his career serving at the highest enlisted level possible. After 40 plus years in uniform and 20 years as the "Keeper of the Standard", Leonard has indeed "*Been all that he could be.*"

# A Visit To Officer Candidate School

By: SSG Joseph Desmond

"Leaders are not born, they are made." Such is the attitude of the Officer Candidate School Cadre at Camp Rowland Connecticut. Soldiers who have been selected as Officer Candidates must complete three grueling phases of Officer Candidate School (OCS). Camp Rowland is phase II.

In the movie *Gladiator*, Russell Crowe portrays a quiet yet confident General of Roman Legions who were about to wage battle with Teutonic tribes in ancient Gaul. As the opening scene unfolds Crowe rides around his troops in silence. Just prior to engaging the enemy he begins to speak. "In three months imagine what you will be doing and it will be so..."

Fast forward 2000 plus years, across the Atlantic Ocean to the mostly residential seaside neighborhood of Niantic, Connecticut, nestled among this idyllic community is Camp Rowland, a National Guard training site for future officers. While many residents are still fast asleep, the predawn is shattered by the booming

voices of the OCS's cadre as they roust the sleeping candidates from their bunks. Mass confusion follows as they stumble and fumble with their gear while their Candidate Platoon Sergeant begins reciting Crowe's opening lines from *Gladiator*. In spite of the megaphone pressed to his lips his voice was still quiet and uncertain. Nonetheless he pressed on. Confusion was evident in the faces of both Candidates and Cadre alike. As the Platoon Sergeant gained confidence, and the timbre of his voice grew more authoritative, the assembled formation grew silent and began to intently focus on him. Moments later a quiet chant of Maximus...Maximus...Maximus!" took hold among the Company. It wasn't long before the entire parade field was caught up in the moment, and as one they chanted "Maximus, Maximus, Maximus".

Leaders are not born they are made. The training of our next generation of Officers is a challenging three phase program that takes 18 months for Officer Candidates to complete.

The first phase of a Candidates training takes place in their home state as part of their monthly drills. Although it happens in the context of a drill weekend, it is still a grueling phase full of stress and confusion. The second phase of OCS is an intensive two week resident course that keeps the Candidate in a constant state of chaos—organized chaos. "This course is



*CPT Vinacco-Cummings (right) Cadre, matches a cadets check list of what was accomplished and what was not. (Photo by SSG Joseph Desmond, PA)*

designed to keep them [the Candidates] in a constant state of information overload and then require them to make decisions in that environment. We are constantly trying to simulate the fog of war" said MAJ Paul Degan, "B" Company Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (OCS), 169<sup>th</sup> Leadership Regiment.

"They are not supposed to win", added CPT Vinacco-Cummings, "It's how they handle stress and chaos. Learning ones limitations, knowing when to delegate, and juggling tasks."

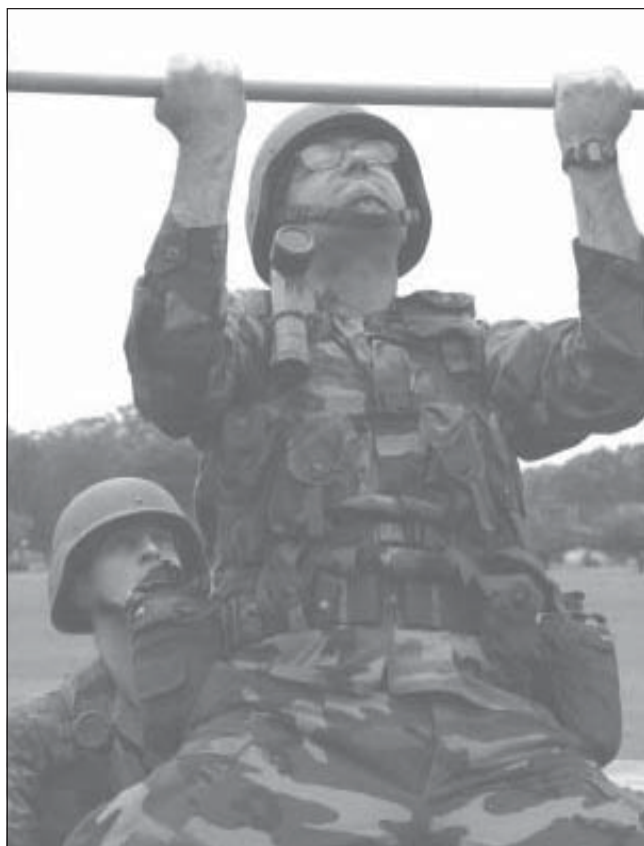
As the Candidates learn to prioritize the endless stream of conflicting orders they begin to cultivate a sense of detachment, a process that a leader needs to develop in order to keep a clear head and make the best possible decisions under difficult circumstances.

Keeping the Candidates motivated and functioning is a tough demanding job that puts the Instructors to the test as much as the Candidates. Although Candidates outnumber Cadre on the parade field it seems like there are two instructors for each Candidate. Constantly keeping the friction going, the Candidates only escape from the harassment in the classroom or at the chowhall.

Most of the hours in a Candidate's day are filled with studies that run the gamut of infantry soldier skills. Map reading, land navigation, and basic common soldier tasks are covered as well as Troop Leading Procedures and the finer points of writing an Operations Order. In short, Candidates are saturated in Battle Focused Training.

"This is an ATRRS school so techni-

**See "OCS" on Page 10**



*Officer Candidate Steven Morin of Herman, pays his dues to the Beastmaster. (Photo by SSG Joseph Desmond, PA)*



# 195th Army Band visits U.S.S. Constitution

By: SSG Joseph Desmond

The era of wooden ships and iron men enjoyed a three-hour resurrection on Flag Day—June 14<sup>th</sup> and the 195<sup>th</sup> Army Band was there to welcome the moment in song. Embarking on its summer concert tour by joining the United States Navy, albeit the 1812 version of the Navy, the Band joined the officers, crew, and one thousand invited guests and dignitaries onboard the USS Constitution for the ships annual turnaround cruise in Boston Harbor. The USS Constitution is the oldest commissioned warship in the world; a living museum, and is still a commissioned U.S. Naval vessel manned by as many as eighty Navy officers and crew. Flying the 15 star “ensign” of 1812, and under armed Coast Guard escort, the 2200 ton three masted “bark” took 1000 invited guests and dignitaries on a brief visit to the era of wooden ships and iron men. Captain Randall—the 67<sup>th</sup> Commanding Officer, outfitted like his crew in authentic period uniform, welcomed everyone aboard his ship.

The Army Band does a lot of traveling to most of their events and this one was no exception. A three-hour boat ride sandwiched between two three-hour bus rides makes for a long day. So how does an Army Band from Maine wind up on a 200-year-old Navy Man-O-War? Well, a little bit of luck helps. Sergeant First Class Sharon Rideout explained. “Every year certain military units basically put some of their events out to bid. Bands from any of

the military services can bid on those concert dates and locations. We were very fortunate that we were able to celebrate Flag Day, which coincidentally is the Army Birthday, at such a venue.”

Under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer Four M. Stanley Buchanan, the band set up on the “spar” deck, just forward of the

main mast, and began entertaining the embarked passengers and crew with a variety of military music until the Executive Officer, Lieutenant William Marks signaled for everyone’s attention. For the next several minutes both Lieutenant Marks and Captain Randall entertained everyone by welcoming them aboard and giving a short presentation on the ships history and lore. When the 195<sup>th</sup> Army Band struck up the National Anthem, the

Star Spangled Banner took on another meaning knowing this very ship fought in the war of 1812 where she earned the moniker “Old Ironsides”. As the Constitution cast off, armed Coast Guard tugboats nudged the old ship from her pier and into her annual three-hour cruise.

The 195<sup>th</sup> Band plays for many audiences,



*The 195th Army Band plays on the Spar Deck of the U.S.S. Constitution. (Photo by SSG Joseph Desmond, PA)*

not just military. During the summer season the 195<sup>th</sup> played for county fairs, marched in parades, and performed concerts for a variety of audiences in many locations. In celebration of our country’s 227<sup>th</sup> birthday the Band was invited to perform at the Salvation Army Pavilion in Old Orchard Beach. The Pavilion is a recessed amphitheater covered with a latticework of steel, painted green and covered with hardwood paneling. A beautiful venue that was matched only by the bands spectacular performance.

Led by Chief Buchanan, Bandmaster and forty-three year veteran of the Maine Army National Guard, the Pavilion and audience came alive with a tribute to American music. Big band swing, and jazz medleys integrated with blues and rock, a tribute to Louis Armstrong by lead trumpet SPC Chris Walker, and an especially sensitive and melodic arrangement of America the Beautiful brought the audience to their feet several times.

“This was one of the best shows we’ve ever done” said an elated SFC Patricia Buchanan. It was hard to tell who was happier, the audience or the band.



*SPC Thurston of the 195th Band gets welcomed aboard the U.S.S. Constitution with a boarding pass. (Photo by SSG Joseph Desmond, PA)*

# OCS

*Continued from "OCS" on Page 8*

cally the students can come from anywhere in the U.S., although most are from the northeast" explained Captain David Bremer. Bremer, along with his counterpart Captain Mark Dobson, is not only Cadre for this course but is an instructor from RTI (Regional Training Institute) at Camp Keyes in Augusta, Maine.

For Darrell Davis of Kennebunk and Steven Morin of Hermon, OCS has been a new phase in their lives. Each candidate has a similar background. Both are prior enlisted United States Navy, Candidate Davis an Ordinanceman and Candidate Morin a Seabee. Both are in their mid-thirties and both have always dreamed of a becoming an officer.

"Coming from the Navy had it's own set of difficulties" explained Candidate Morin, "because the Army is almost the complete opposite to what we did in the Navy." "I felt like I was eighteen all over again" added Candidate Davis "but I had to do it as I was in a transition period in my life."

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# Ambulances

*Continued from page 4*

wreaks havoc with electrical and avionics systems.

"We've replaced eight engines," said Staff Sgt. Don Shorey, the 112th's senior quality controller. "We haven't missed a mission yet because of a downed aircraft, but the sand is tough on this equipment. This is not exactly Maine."

Shorey is an old hand at this deployment business ... as is Sullivan. They are among 16 members of the company who have taken part in its three major deployments – to Germany in 1990-91, to Bosnia in 1999-2000 and now to the Persian Gulf.

It is one more sign of how the Army Guard's mission has changed.

"I joined this company in September 1993, because I figured it would be a week-end a month and two weeks of training a year," Ron Ireland recalled. "And I said, 'Yeah, I can do that.'"

Ten years later, he is back in the Per-



*Maine Army National Guard Sgt. Brooke Taylor, a medic in the 112th Medical Company, watches a Black Hawk air ambulance run up before taking off in Kuwait. (Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau)*

## From the State Command Sergeant Major

We have all been extremely busy since the tragic events of September 11, 2001. There have been many deployments and we continue to prepare for future operations as the Army relies more heavily on the National Guard to accomplish its missions. We as leaders have become more focused on deployment issues such as medical readiness, family care plans, family programs and MOS qualification to prepare our soldiers in the event we are called upon to serve our country. Now more than ever, we need to insure we are investing in the future of our National Guard by counseling and mentoring our junior leaders. By taking time now to properly coach and mentor our junior leaders we are investing in the future of this great

organization and are preparing the next generation of leaders for the challenges that tomorrow will bring.

The Webster's Dictionary definition of mentor is a "wise and trusted advisor or teacher". Over the span of my military career I have had several mentors. Many have since retired, they know who they are, and many are still in the National Guard. Ideally a soldier's mentor and a soldier's rater would be the same. The Army has provided us the tools to council and mentor our junior leaders, the NCOER Counseling Checklist and the NCOER. Informal counseling can also be an effective tool in developing our future leaders. Informal counseling is flexible and can be done any time an opportunity presents itself such as during training briefs, after action re-

views, or during a break in the training. If we use these valuable tools the way they are intended to be used we will be well on our way to be mentors for our junior leaders. I challenge each and every rater to ensure that every soldier whose record is being forwarded to a promotion board has a current NCOER for the promotion board to review. It is all about taking care of soldiers.

Mentoring our future leaders will benefit everyone involved and is an excellent method for leaders to pass on their experiences and share their knowledge. When done properly it will create a stron-



**CSM Mark J. Collins**

ger organization that will develop stronger leaders who are better prepared to face future challenges. Let us not waste a moment of valuable time to prepare tomorrow's leaders.

## BNCOC Class of 2004

By: SSG Joseph Desmond, PA

Regional Training Institute, Camp Keyes, Augusta graduated an unusually small class of only seven soldiers from Phase 1 Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCOC) on Sunday, March 7th, 2004. Twenty five of the original 32 students were put through an accelerated active duty version of BNCOC to ensure that they were ready to deploy with their units.



*Sergeant Joseph Guimond from Ft. Fairfield of the 152FA receives his 1059—a certificate of course completion from the RTI Course Manager, Sergeant First Class Alex Clifford (Photo by SSG Joseph Desmond, PA)*



# ***Deployment 2003 - In Pictures***



*112th Medical Company training at Alhillah.*



*Sunset*



*112th flying over tank "bone yard".*



*CPT Veneziano from the 112th Medical Company and  
CPT Dionne from 1136th Transportation Company.*

**Photos provided by deployed soldiers**

**Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management  
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